

The Seaman's Compass:

O R

A dainty new Ditty composed and pend,
The deeds of brave Seamen to praise and commend
Twas made by a Maid that to Gravesend did pass,
Now mark and you quickly shall hear how it was.

To the Tune of *The Tyrant hath stolen.*



As lately I travelled
towards Gravesend,
I heard a fair Damoysel
a Seaman commend
And as in a Tilt-boat
we passed along,
In praise of brave Sea-men
he sung this new Song:
Come Tradersmen or Merchant,
whoever he be
Theres none but a Seaman
shall marry with me.

A Sea-man in promise
is faithful and just,
In carriage
true to his trust:

Kind in behaviour
and constant in love,
Is firm in affection
as the Turtle Dove,
Valiant in action
in every degree
Theres none, &c.

The Sea-man adventures
their lives at the Seas
Whilst Land-men on shore
takes pleasure and ease,
The Sea-man at all times
their business multiply
In Winter and Summer
in wet and in dry,

From toyl and pains-taking
they seldome are free,
Theres aone, &c.

For ever I'de have you
so to understand
That Sea-men brings treasure
and profit to Land
Above and beneath ground
so well they have sought
And when they have found it
to England 'tis brought
With hazard of lives
by experience we see
Theres none but a Sea-man
shall marry with me,

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Sea-men from beyond Seas
 bring Silver & Gold
 With Pearls and rich Jewels,
 most rare to behold
 With Silks and rich Welvets
 the credits to save,
 Or else you gay Ladies
 could not go so brave
 This makes my heart merry
 as merry may be
 There's none but a Sea-man
 shall marry with me.
 The Sea-men bring Spices,
 and sugar so fine
 Which let be the brave gallants,
 to drink with their wine
 With Lemmons & Oranges
 all of the best,
 To relish their pallats
 when they make a feast,
 Sweet Figs, Prunes & Rayfins
 by them brought home be
 There's none, &c.
 A comfort poor people
 The Seamen do stie
 And brings in maintenance
 to keep them alive
 As row silk and Cotton wooll
 to Card and to spin
 And so by their labours
 their livings comes in:
 Gossamen are beholding
 to Seamen we see
 With none but a Sea-man
 I married will be.
 The Mercer's beholding
 we know well enough
 For Holland, Laton, Cambrick,
 and other gay stuff
 That's brought from beyond Seas
 by Sea-men to hold
 The rarest that ever
 mens eyes did behold.
 God prosper the Seamen
 where ever they be
 There's none &c.

The Merchants themselves
 are beholding also
 To honest Sea-men
 that on purpose do go
 To bring them home & profit
 from other strange lands
 Or else their fine daughters
 must work with their hands,
 The Nobles and Gentry
 in every degree
 Are also beholding &c.
 Thus for Rich and poor men
 the Seamen does good
 And sometimes comes off with
 loss of much blood:
 If they were not a guard
 and a defence for our Land
 Our Enemies soon will get
 the upper hand.
 And then in a woful case
 straight should we be
 There's none &c.
 To draw to Conclusion
 and so make an end
 I hope that great Neptune
 my Love will befriend
 And send him home safely
 with health and with life,
 Then shall I with joyfulness
 soon be his wife
 You Maids, Wives & Widowes
 that Seamen's Loves be
 With hearts and with voices
 joyn prayers with me.
 God bless all brave Seamen
 from Quick-sands & Rocks
 from losse of their blood
 and from Enemies knocks
 from Lightning & Thunder
 and tempests so strong
 from Shipwrack and motoring
 and all other wrong
 And they that to these words
 will not say Amen
 'Tis pity that they should ever
 speak word agen. **L.P.**